(d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.

In the XI Plan, special focus would be given to SCs, STs, Minorities and rural women under National Literacy Mission. Focus would also be on low literacy States, tribal areas, other disadvantaged groups and adolescents.

Impact of price rise on Mid-Day Meal Scheme

96. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mid-Day Meal Scheme of Government will get a jolt as the Department of Food and Public Distribution has enhanced the prices of wheat and rice for the Scheme, and that for expansion of the scheme, the prices will be still higher;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering any alternative proposal for this highly successful project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken to make this project a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. No communication regarding enhancement of prices of wheat and rice for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been received from the Department of Food and Public Distribution. As per the existing terms and conditions, the cost of foodgrains is reimbursed at BPL rates.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Gender parity in higher education

97. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the mid term review of UN Millennium Development Goals 2015, while gender parity is on track for primary and secondary education, the progress is slow in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for gender parity in higher education by the stipulated time-frame?S

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While no such comparison